

Social Security Administration  
Office of Research, Evaluation and Statistics  
Division of SSI Statistics and Analysis

**QUARTERLY REPORT  
ON SSI DISABLED WORKERS  
AND WORK INCENTIVE PROVISIONS**

**MARCH 1997**

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## INTRODUCTION

This report provides information about all SSI disabled and blind<sup>1</sup> recipients who work and receive wages. The report has been divided into three sections--all SSI disabled workers, section 1619 participants, and disabled workers who benefit from other work incentive provisions.

Since the beginning of the SSI program, a number of SSI disabled recipients have worked and received SSI payments. Initially, the program contained a basic earned income exclusion that recognized the additional costs associated with employment. In addition, the law contained a number of special income exclusions that were intended as work incentives. Among these provisions were income exclusions for blind work expenses (BWE), plans for achieving self-support (PASS), and student earned income (SEI).

The 1980 amendments to the Social Security Act established section 1619, and provided additional work incentive provisions to assist SSI recipients in entering the workforce. These included income exclusions for impairment-related work expenses (IRWE), a change in the treatment of sheltered workshop earnings, and the continuation of SSI payments for some individuals whose disability ceased due to medical recovery. This provision was extended to SSI blind recipients in the 1988 amendments.<sup>2</sup>

Congress enacted these provisions because it concluded that additional incentives were required to help SSI disabled recipients to become self-supporting. They believed that individuals who could work outside of sheltered workshops, might have been discouraged from doing so by the fear of losing their benefits before they had established for themselves the capability for continued self-support.

Section 1619(a) provides special SSI cash benefits to disabled individuals who lose eligibility for SSI payments because they have earnings at the level that is ordinarily considered to represent substantial gainful activity (SGA). Section 1619(b) provides special SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes to working disabled or blind individuals when their earnings make them ineligible for cash payments.

Under P.L. 99-643, which made section 1619 permanent, disabled individuals on the SSI rolls retain disability status until they medically improve. The distinction between a disabled person eligible for regular SSI benefits and a disabled person eligible for 1619(a) benefits is that the latter has several months with gross earnings above the SGA level (\$500).

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<sup>1</sup> Unless specifically excluded and/or listed separately, all references to SSI disabled recipients and workers in this report include persons whose eligibility is based on blindness.

<sup>2</sup> For a full description of these provisions, see the Appendix.

Under previous law, 1619(a) status did not begin until after the completion of a trial work period and a determination was made that subsequent work was SGA. A number of the cases were defined as 1619(a) cases after June 1987 as a result of this change in the definition rather than from any change in their work activity.

Beginning January 1990, a number of recipients went from 1619(a) status to regular eligibility status as a result of the increase in the SGA level from \$300 to \$500.

Under section 1619(b), cash payments are not made. However, recipient status for Medicaid purposes continues until earnings reach a plateau that takes into account the person's ability to afford medical care as well as his or her normal living expenses.

The data in this report are based on the SSI caseload at the end of March 1997. The number of recipients with a PASS represents only those recipients with income excluded under a PASS. Data for recipients who have only resources excluded under a PASS are not currently available.

## **SUMMARY**

### **SSI DISABLED WORKERS, MARCH 1997**

In March 1997, there were 309,745 SSI disabled beneficiaries who were working (5.9 percent of the total SSI disabled caseload). Included in this count were 48,194 section 1619(b) participants who do not receive an SSI payment, but who have special SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes. Almost eight out of ten (77.9 percent) of the workers had amounts of earned income below the substantial gainful activity (SGA) level of \$500 per month; 31.9 percent earned \$65 or less.

Among the States, the percentage of disabled workers varied from a low of 2.7 percent in Alabama to a high of 18.3 percent in Iowa. In general, the percentage of disabled workers was higher in the Northern States than in the Southern States.

Most of these disabled workers were: white--68.0 percent, and male--54.3 percent. Almost half (47.3 percent) had unearned income; 40.2 percent were receiving social security benefits. Comparable figures for all disabled recipients in March 1997 were: 47.2 percent white, 45.4 percent male, and 30.5 percent receiving social security benefits.

Disabled workers are more likely to have certain impairments than other disabled recipients. Three-fourths (74.7 percent) of the workers had a mental disorder, including 49.8 percent who were diagnosed with mental retardation. This compares to 58.8 percent of all disabled recipients with a mental disorder, including 28.4 percent with mental retardation.

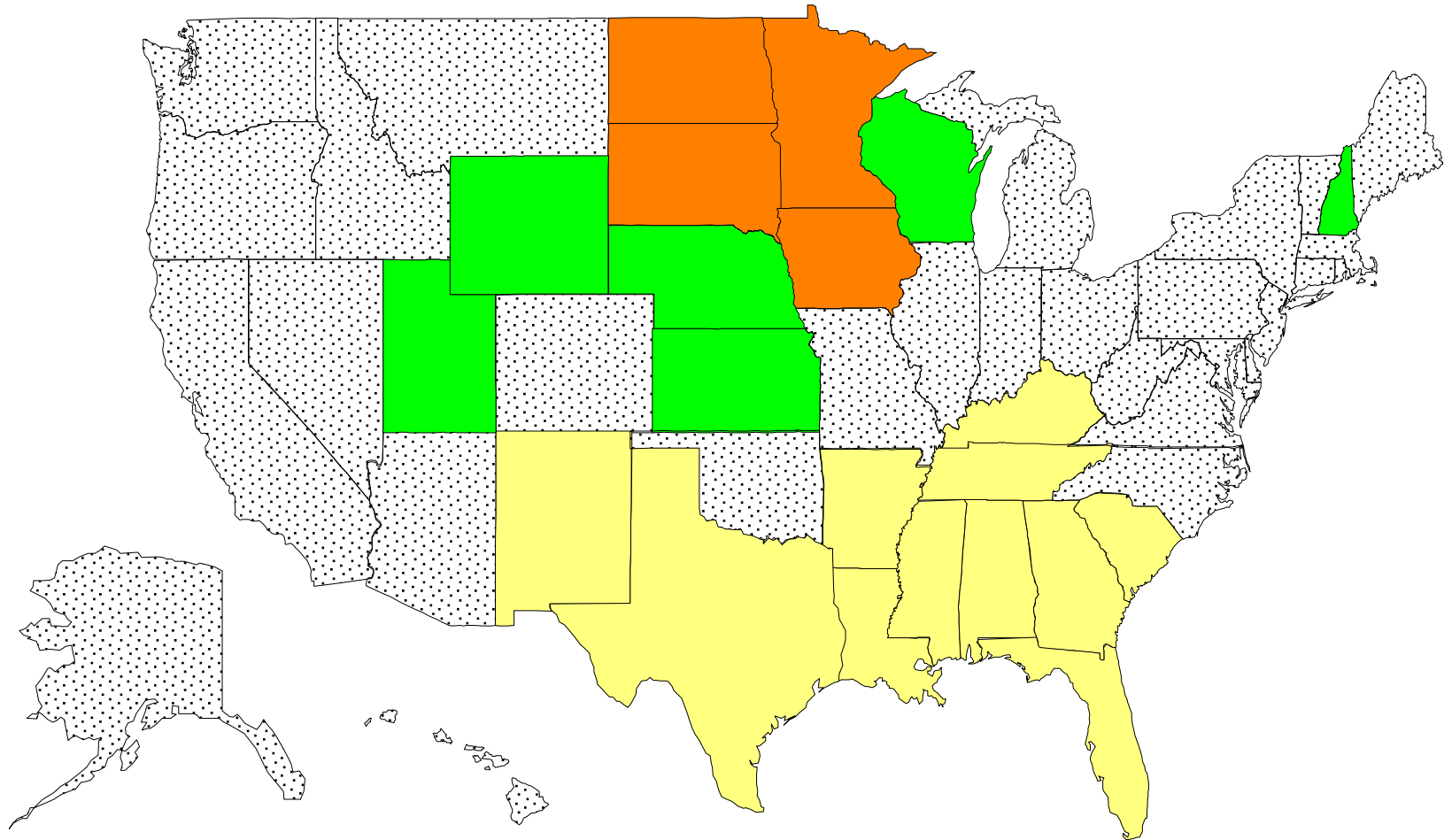
The greatest use of work incentive provisions was by participants under section 1619—25.6 percent of disabled workers. This included 10.1 percent under section 1619(a), and 15.6 percent under section 1619(b).

Use of other work incentive provisions continued to have a smaller, but measurable, impact. In March 1997, 5.7 percent of the SSI disabled workers had some of their income excluded under one of these provisions---plan for achieving self support (PASS), (1.2 percent); impairment related work expenses (IRWE), (3.2 percent), or blind work expenses (BWE), (1.4 percent).

A PASS permits an SSI recipient to set aside income and resources to help obtain the training or education necessary for certain specified occupational goals. In March 1997, 1,521 PASS participants had earnings, which averaged \$590 per month. However, exclusions under a PASS are not limited to earnings. Of the 3,787 disabled recipients with a PASS, more than half (59.8 percent) did not have any earnings reported for March 1997. For this group, the PASS excluded unearned income such as social security benefits.

# CHART A

## DISABLED WORKERS AS A PERCENT OF ALL DISABLED RECIPIENTS MARCH 1997



Under 5%



5 - 9.99%



10 - 14.99%

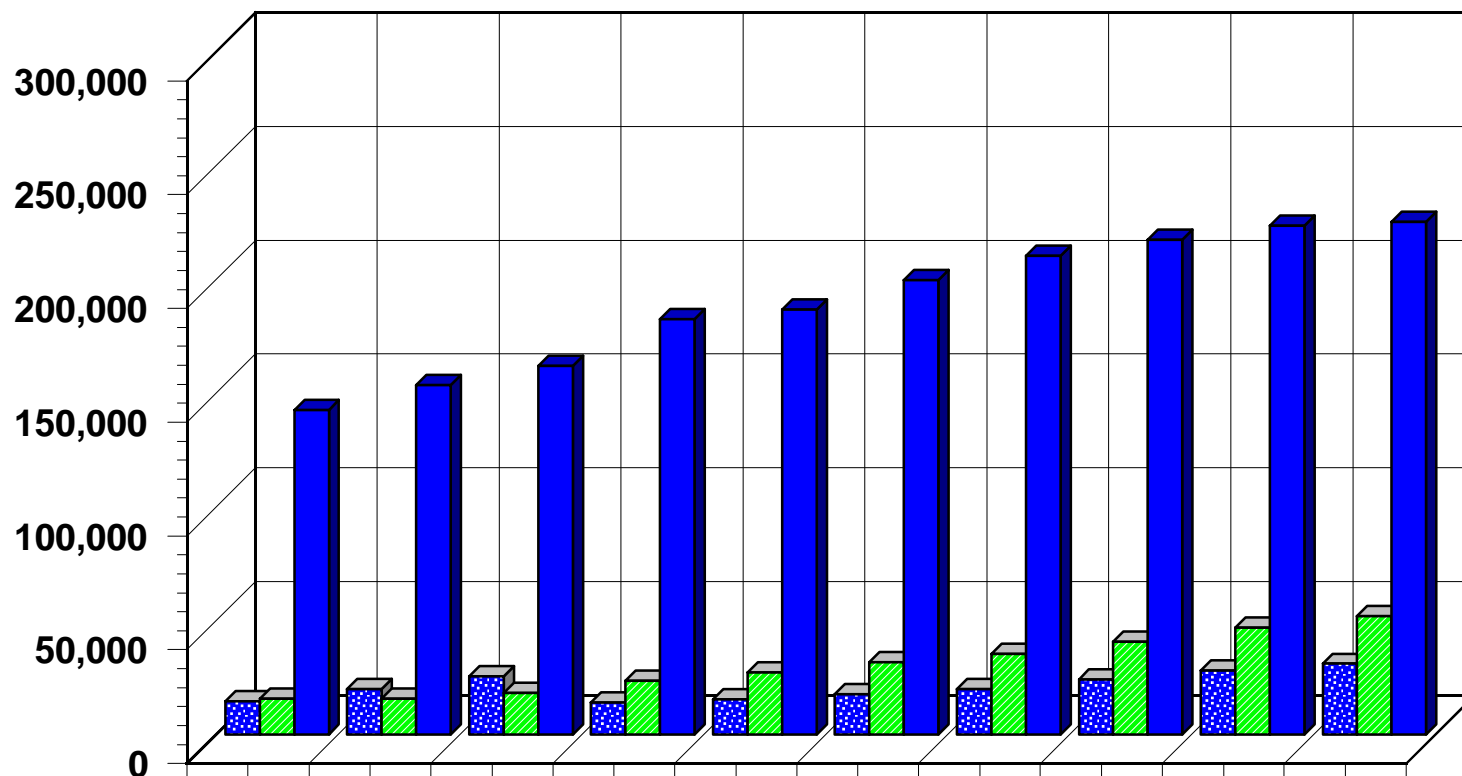


15% or more



# CHART B

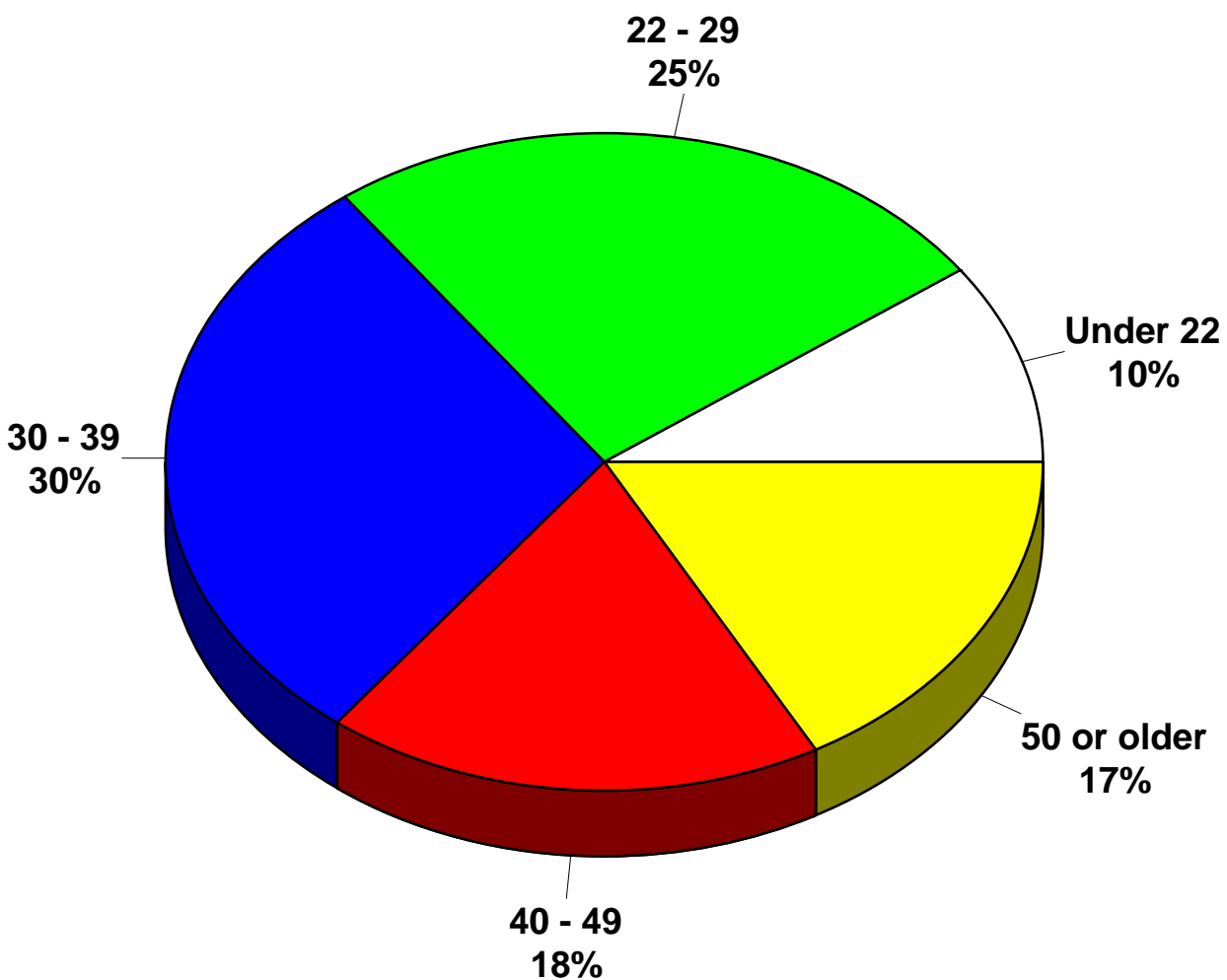
## SSI DISABLED WORKERS, DECEMBER 1987 - 1996



1619(a) workers	14,559	19,920	25,655	13,994	15,531	17,603	20,028	24,315	28,060	31,085
1619(b) workers	15,632	15,625	18,254	23,517	27,264	31,649	35,299	40,683	47,002	51,905
Other disabled workers	142,664	153,599	161,928	182,421	186,824	199,665	210,322	217,478	223,573	225,310

## CHART C

### AGE OF SSI DISABLED WORKERS MARCH 1997

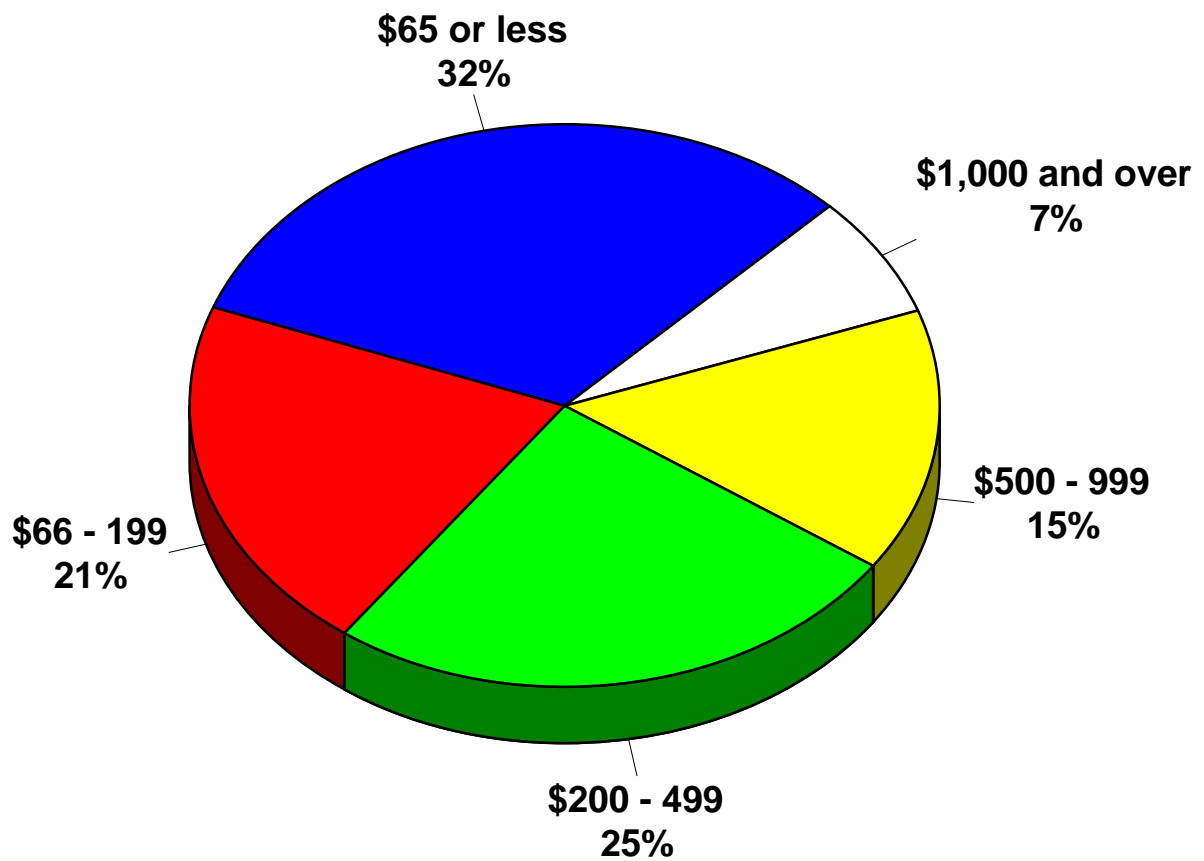


**SSI DISABLED WORKERS**

Data includes section 1619(b) participants.

## CHART D

### MONTHLY EARNINGS OF SSI DISABLED WORKERS MARCH 1997

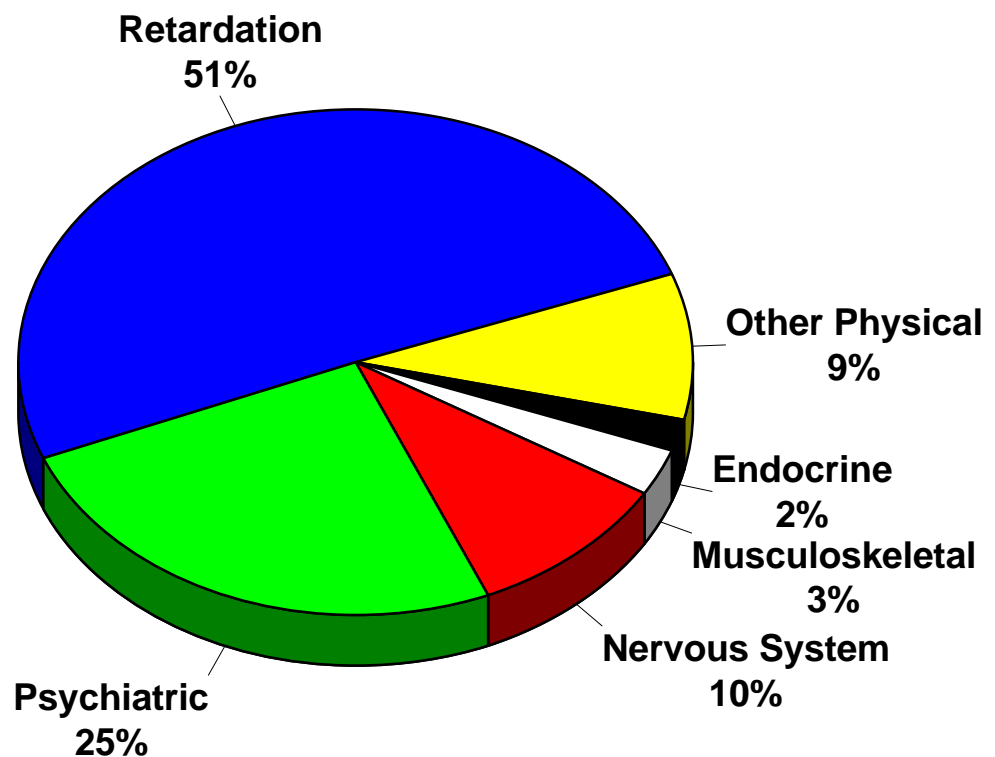


**SSI DISABLED WORKERS**

Data includes section 1619(b) participants.

## CHART E

### DIAGNOSIS OF SSI DISABLED WORKERS MARCH 1997

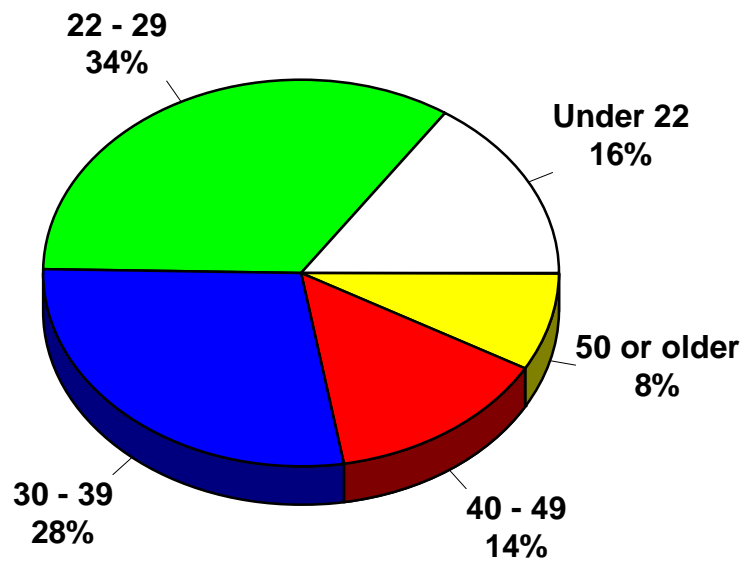


**SSI DISABLED WORKERS**

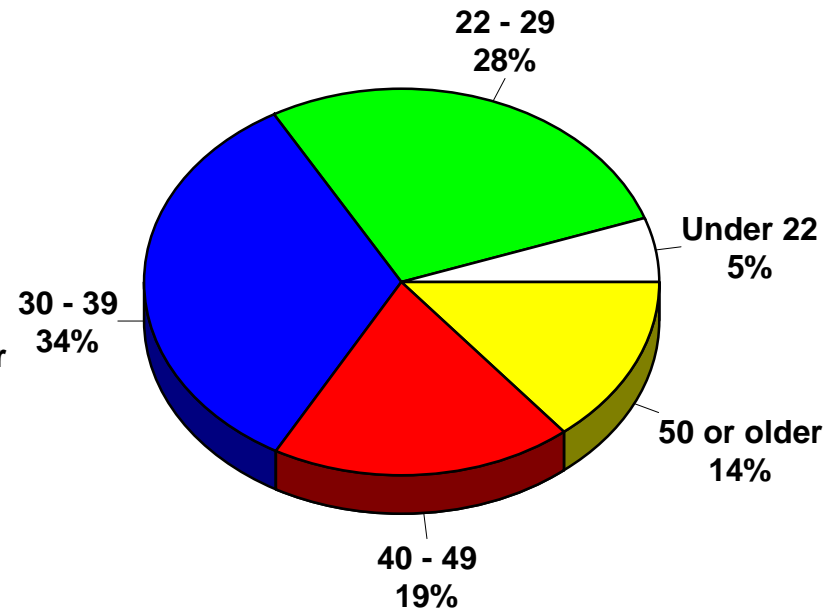
Data includes section 1619(b) participants.

# CHART F

## AGE OF SECTION 1619 PARTICIPANTS MARCH 1997



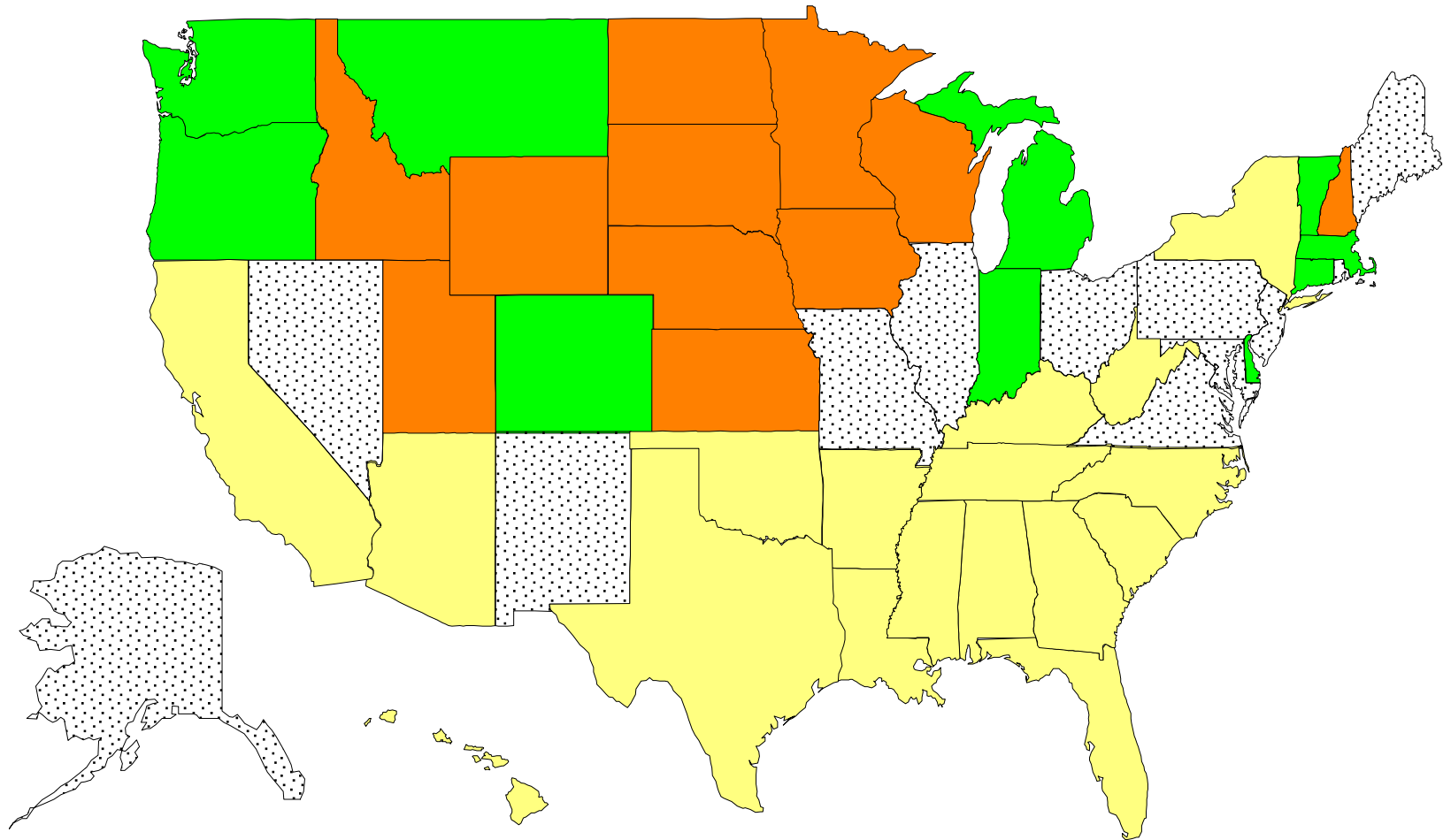
1619(a) PARTICIPANTS



1619(b) PARTICIPANTS

## CHART G

## SECTION 1619 PARTICIPANTS AS A PERCENT OF ALL DISABLED RECIPIENTS MARCH 1997



11

## Under 2%



**2 - 2.99%**



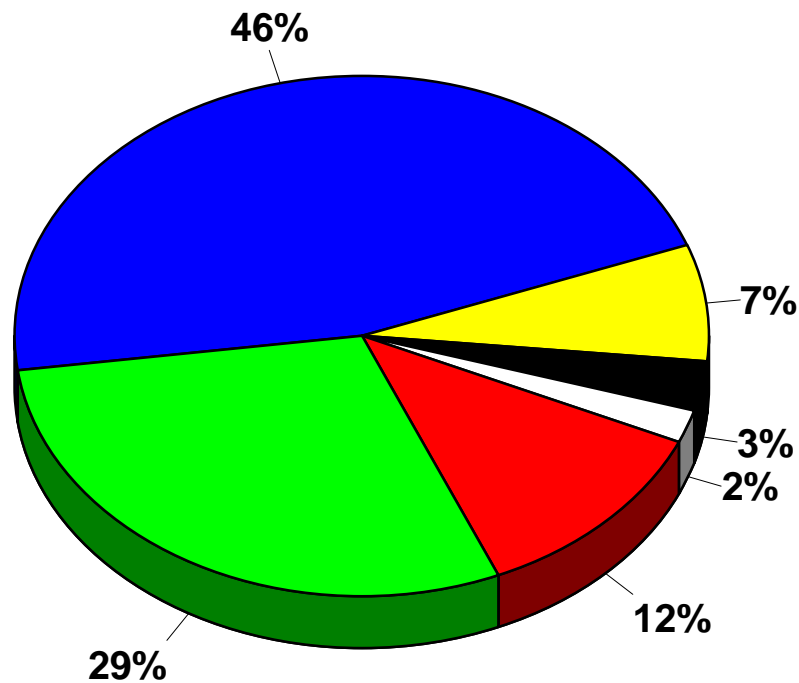
**3 - 3.99%**



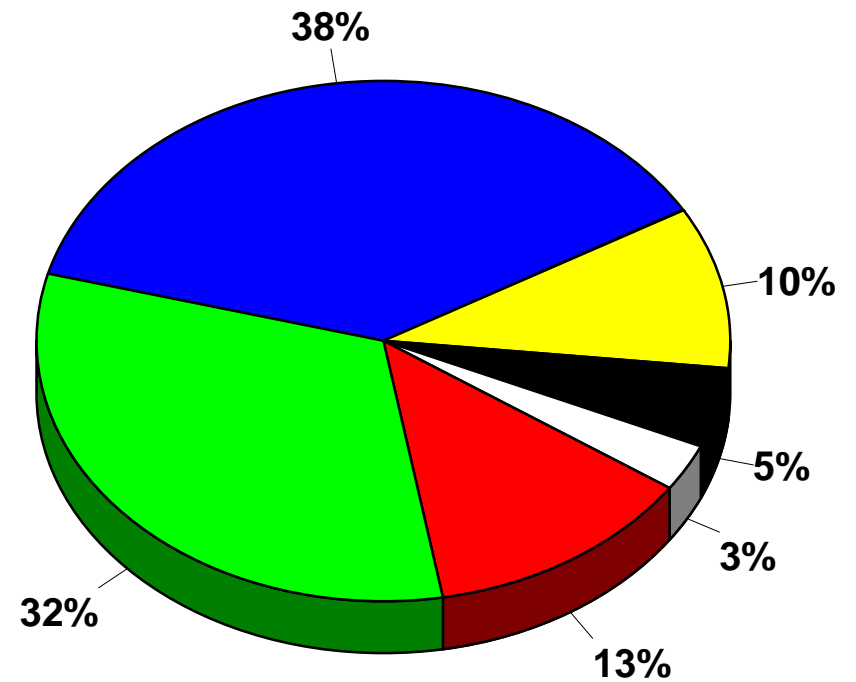
**4% or more**

# CHART H

## DIAGNOSIS OF SECTION 1619 PARTICIPANTS MARCH 1997



1619(a) PARTICIPANTS

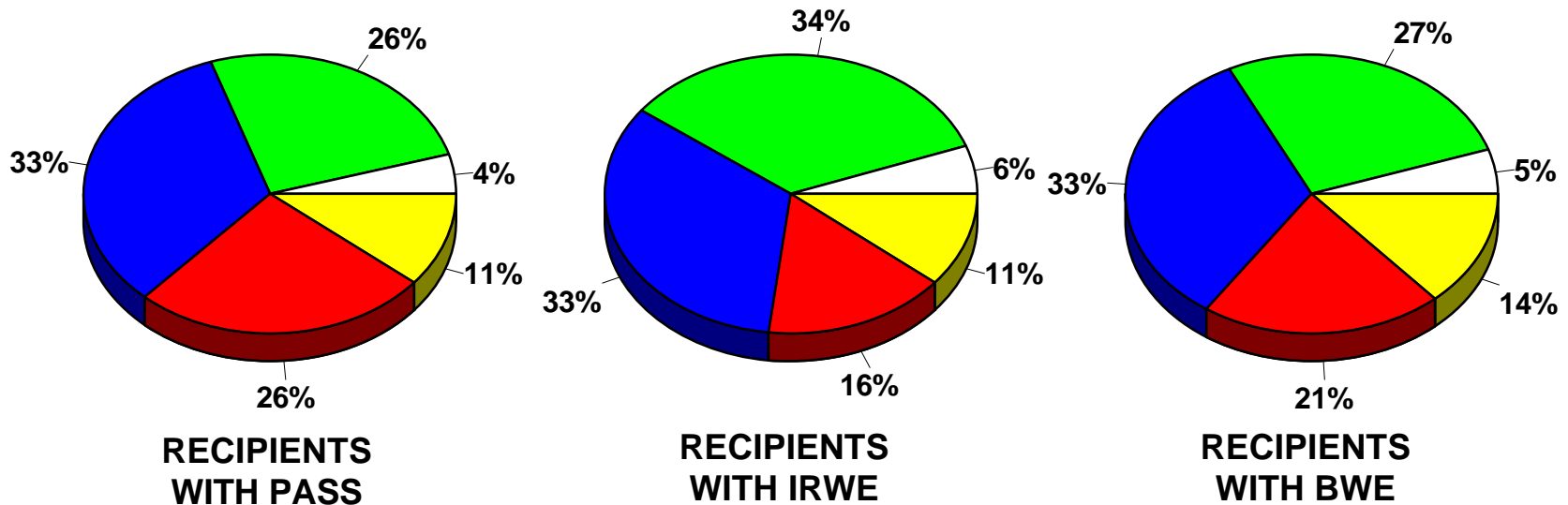


1619(b) PARTICIPANTS

■ Retardation ■ Psychiatric ■ Nervous System □ Musculoskeletal ■ Endocrine ■ Other Physical

# CHART I

## AGE OF SSI WORK INCENTIVE RECIPIENTS MARCH 1997

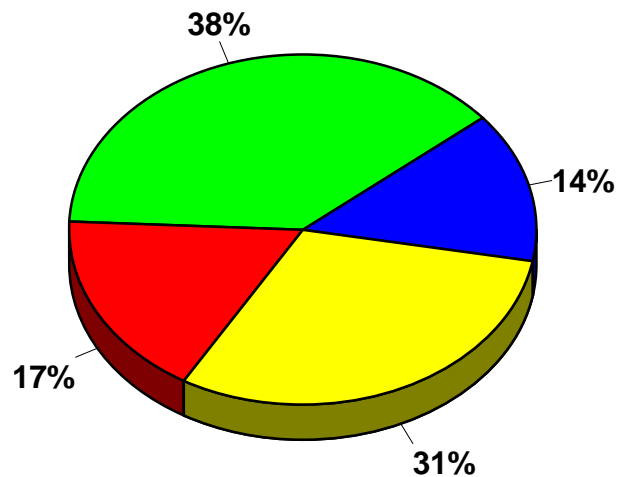


□ Under 22    ■ 22 - 29    ■ 30 - 39    ■ 40 - 49    ■ 50 or older

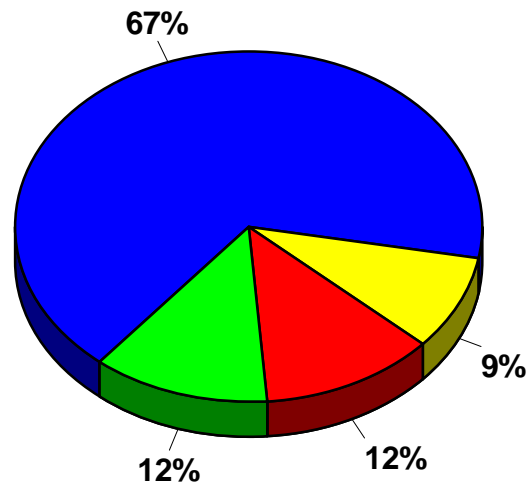


# CHART J

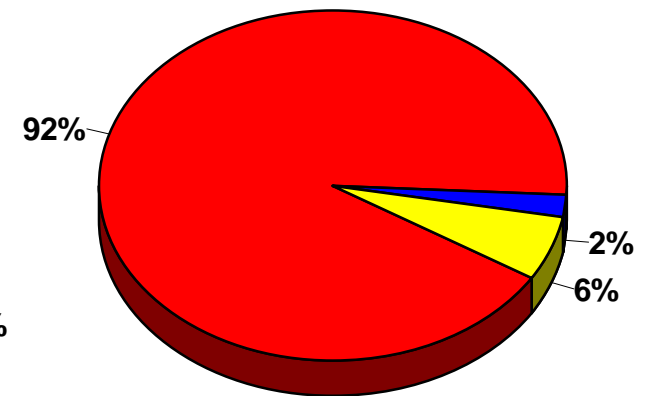
## DIAGNOSIS OF SSI WORK INCENTIVE RECIPIENTS MARCH 1997



RECIPIENTS  
WITH PASS



RECIPIENTS  
WITH IRWE



RECIPIENTS  
WITH BWE

Retardation Psychiatric Nervous System Other Physical

Table 1. Number of SSI disabled recipients and working recipients, for selected months, 1976-1997

At end of selected month	All disabled SSI recipients <sup>1</sup>	SSI disabled recipients who work <sup>1</sup>		
		Receiving SSI <sup>2</sup>	1619(b) earners	Percent of disabled recipients
December <sup>3</sup>				
1976	2,088,242	70,719	---	3.4
1977	2,186,771	83,697	---	3.8
1978	2,249,025	87,697	---	3.9
1979	2,277,859	92,270	---	4.1
1980	2,334,241	99,276	---	4.3
1981	2,340,785	102,632	---	4.4
1982	2,314,364	102,288	5,515	4.7
1983	2,391,262	108,734	5,165	4.8
1987	2,945,244	157,223	15,632	5.9
1988	3,046,074	173,519	15,625	6.2
1989	3,172,270	187,583	18,254	6.5
1990	3,386,603	196,415	23,517	6.5
1991	3,681,050	202,355	27,264	6.2
1992	4,126,816	217,268	31,649	6.0
1993	4,544,777	230,350	35,299	5.8
1994	4,870,564	241,793	40,683	5.8
1995	5,115,014	251,633	47,002	5.8
1996	5,252,991	256,395	51,905	5.9
1995				
March	4,951,437	245,051	40,333	5.8
June	5,017,520	249,965	43,188	5.8
September	5,086,546	252,389	45,678	5.9
December	5,115,014	251,633	47,002	5.8
1996				
March	5,179,015	252,655	45,594	5.8
June	5,223,642	255,549	48,590	5.8
September	5,258,316	256,729	51,484	5.9
December	5,252,991	256,395	51,905	5.9
1997				
March	5,223,023	261,551	48,194	5.9

<sup>1</sup> Includes both SSI blind recipients and all section 1619(b) participants.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 1619(a) participants and SSI recipients earning less than the SGA level, (\$500 effective January 1990).

<sup>3</sup> Data not available for December 1984, 1985, 1986.

Table 2. Number of SSI disabled recipients, and number and percentage of SSI disabled workers, by State, March 1997

State	Total SSI disabled <sup>1</sup>	SSI disabled working recipients <sup>1</sup>	
		Number	Percent
Total	5,223,023	309,745	5.9
Alabama	132,255	3,532	2.7
Alaska	6,125	481	7.9
Arizona	62,952	3,147	5.0
Arkansas	75,630	3,295	4.4
California	701,276	36,546	5.2
Colorado	49,008	4,749	9.7
Connecticut	39,396	3,337	8.5
Delaware	10,121	711	7.0
District of Columbia	17,211	533	3.1
Florida	257,299	9,937	3.9
Georgia	160,784	7,605	4.7
Hawaii	11,888	722	6.1
Idaho	15,708	1,534	9.8
Illinois	226,554	13,057	5.8
Indiana	83,041	6,271	7.6
Iowa	37,749	6,891	18.3
Kansas	34,421	3,987	11.6
Kentucky	145,971	4,460	3.1
Louisiana	151,843	4,725	3.1
Maine	24,174	1,843	7.6
Maryland	68,799	4,535	6.6
Massachusetts	120,389	9,184	7.6
Michigan	191,866	15,054	7.8
Minnesota	54,226	8,223	15.2
Mississippi	111,582	3,062	2.7
Missouri	100,983	6,996	6.9
Montana	12,758	1,643	12.9
Nebraska	19,360	2,827	14.6
Nevada	15,741	1,027	6.5
New Hampshire	10,158	1,145	11.3
New Jersey	111,431	7,214	6.5
New Mexico	36,291	1,786	4.9
New York	463,146	26,606	5.7
North Carolina	154,737	7,639	4.9
North Dakota	7,408	1,290	17.4
Ohio	234,439	16,941	7.2
Oklahoma	61,476	3,481	5.7
Oregon	41,633	4,058	9.7
Pennsylvania	230,714	13,478	5.8
Rhode Island	20,575	1,493	7.3
South Carolina	90,643	4,391	4.8
South Dakota	11,638	2,034	17.5
Tennessee	146,224	6,186	4.2
Texas	290,688	13,702	4.7
Utah	19,142	2,226	11.6
Vermont	11,072	916	8.3
Virginia	107,278	5,740	5.4
Washington	82,581	6,000	7.3
West Virginia	62,315	1,810	2.9
Wisconsin	84,516	10,984	13.0
Wyoming	5,320	695	13.1
Northern Mariana Islands	391	16	4.1
Unknown	97	---	---

<sup>1</sup> Includes 1619(b) participants.

Table 3. Number of SSI disabled working recipients by section 1619 status, by State, March 1997

State	Total	SSI disabled working recipients		
		Section 1619(a)	Section 1619(b)	All other workers
Total	309,745	31,146	48,194	230,405
Alabama	3,532	470	561	2,501
Alaska	481	48	101	332
Arizona	3,147	353	533	2,261
Arkansas	3,295	319	538	2,438
California	36,546	4,093	4,058	28,395
Colorado	4,749	419	847	3,483
Connecticut	3,337	272	685	2,380
Delaware	711	73	156	482
District of Columbia	533	69	119	345
Florida	9,937	1,290	1,809	6,838
Georgia	7,605	760	1,032	5,813
Hawaii	722	68	69	585
Idaho	1,534	171	279	1,084
Illinois	13,057	1,453	1,892	9,712
Indiana	6,271	718	1,248	4,305
Iowa	6,891	496	1,172	5,223
Kansas	3,987	331	710	2,946
Kentucky	4,460	511	702	3,247
Louisiana	4,725	662	884	3,179
Maine	1,843	151	360	1,332
Maryland	4,535	443	662	3,430
Massachusetts	9,184	1,058	2,079	6,047
Michigan	15,054	1,559	2,503	10,992
Minnesota	8,223	608	1,610	6,005
Mississippi	3,062	433	513	2,116
Missouri	6,996	580	1,011	5,405
Montana	1,643	95	235	1,313
Nebraska	2,827	236	391	2,200
Nevada	1,027	124	196	707
New Hampshire	1,145	85	261	799
New Jersey	7,214	583	1,019	5,612
New Mexico	1,786	226	310	1,250
New York	26,606	2,208	3,051	21,347
North Carolina	7,639	660	1,094	5,885
North Dakota	1,290	69	197	1,024
Ohio	16,941	1,828	2,370	12,743
Oklahoma	3,481	279	487	2,715
Oregon	4,058	320	762	2,976
Pennsylvania	13,478	1,408	1,938	10,132
Rhode Island	1,493	100	227	1,166
South Carolina	4,391	363	572	3,456
South Dakota	2,034	125	337	1,572
Tennessee	6,186	637	1,007	4,542
Texas	13,702	1,420	2,254	10,028
Utah	2,226	206	390	1,630
Vermont	916	110	200	606
Virginia	5,740	581	931	4,228
Washington	6,000	904	1,359	3,737
West Virginia	1,810	139	267	1,404
Wisconsin	10,984	975	2,079	7,930
Wyoming	695	50	124	521
Northern Mariana Islands	16	7	3	6

Table 4. Number of SSI disabled working recipients, percentage and average earnings, by selected characteristics, March 1997

Selected characteristics	SSI disabled working recipients <sup>1</sup>		
	Number	Percent	Average earnings
Total	309,745	100.0	\$332
Age			
Under 18	4,105	1.3	\$378
18-21	26,473	8.5	371
22-29	77,978	25.2	394
30-39	91,714	29.6	333
40-49	56,588	18.3	306
50-59	31,486	10.2	271
60-64	10,519	3.4	232
65 or older	10,882	3.5	163
Race			
White	210,484	68.0	\$308
Black	53,165	17.2	384
Other	18,044	5.8	426
Unknown	28,052	9.1	350
Sex			
Male	168,290	54.3	\$347
Female	141,455	45.7	313
Earned Income <sup>2</sup>			
Wages	294,347	95.0	\$341
Self-employment	16,485	5.3	186
Earning Levels			
\$65 and Under	98,818	31.9	\$54
\$66 - \$99	19,057	6.2	82
\$100 - \$199	44,836	14.5	139
\$200 - \$299	31,718	10.2	236
\$300 - \$399	25,799	8.3	337
\$400 - \$499	21,010	6.8	435
\$500 - \$599	14,730	4.8	528
\$600 - \$699	10,488	3.4	632
\$700 - \$799	7,927	2.6	736
\$800 - \$899	7,648	2.5	832
\$900 - \$999	5,483	1.8	936
\$1,000 and Over	22,231	7.2	1,461
Unearned Income <sup>2</sup>			
None	163,264	52.7	\$379
Social security	124,467	40.2	261
Other pensions	3,317	1.1	213
Assistance based on need	92	0.0	448
Interest, dividends, etc	24,313	7.8	307
Other	11,045	3.6	389
Work Incentives <sup>2</sup>			
Section 1619(a)	31,146	10.1	\$764
Section 1619(b)	48,194	15.6	862
PASS <sup>3</sup>	1,521	0.5	590
IRWE	9,776	3.2	368
BWE	4,229	1.4	779

<sup>1</sup> Includes section 1619(b) participants.

<sup>2</sup> Persons with more than one type are shown under each type.

<sup>3</sup> Number of working recipients with a PASS. Data on all recipients with a PASS are in Tables 14-17.

Table 5. Percent of SSI disabled recipients and workers under age 65, by diagnosis, March 1997<sup>1</sup>

Diagnosis	All disabled recipients	SSI disabled working recipients
Total number <sup>2</sup>	4,375,650	187,913
Total percent	100.0	100.0
Infectious and parasitic diseases	1.7	0.8
Neoplasms	1.5	0.9
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic	4.3	2.2
Mental Disorders:		
Schizophrenia	8.9	9.8
Other psychiatric	21.5	15.0
Mental retardation	28.4	49.8
Diseases of the:		
Nervous system and sense organs <sup>3</sup>	10.1	10.5
Circulatory system	4.9	1.9
Respiratory system	2.7	0.9
Digestive system	0.7	0.3
Genito-urinary system	0.9	0.8
Musculoskeletal system and connective tissues	7.3	3.5
Congenital anomalies	1.7	0.9
Injury and poisoning	2.7	1.8
Other	2.7	0.8

<sup>1</sup> Information on diagnosis of all SSI disabled recipients is from the December 1996 SSI 10-percent disability file. Information on diagnosis for SSI disabled working recipients is available from SSI source files.

<sup>2</sup> Includes only recipients whose diagnosis information is specifically identified on the source files.

<sup>3</sup> Most of the disabled workers who are classified as blind individuals are included in this category. A few blind participants have a primary impairment other than diseases of the eye and are coded in other categories in this table. Also, there are a few participants classified as having diseases of the eye who are not blind, whose impairment does not meet the definition of blindness.

Table 6. Number of SSI disabled recipients age 18-64, percent with earnings, and percent in 1619(b) status, by age, March 1997

Age	Total SSI Disabled (18 - 64) <sup>1</sup>		With earnings		In 1619(b) status	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	3,566,656	100.0	294,758	8.3	46,726	1.3
18-21	245,311	6.9	26,473	10.8	2,201	0.9
22-29	483,265	13.5	77,978	16.1	13,435	2.8
30-39	797,097	22.3	91,714	11.5	16,287	2.0
40-49	810,172	22.7	56,588	7.0	9,092	1.1
50-59	813,541	22.8	31,486	3.9	4,291	0.5
60-64	417,270	11.7	10,519	2.5	1,420	0.3

<sup>1</sup> Includes 1619(b)s. Based on a 10-percent sample file.

Table 7. Number of SSI disabled recipients age 18-64, and number and percentage of section 1619 participants, by State, March 1997

State Ranking	State	Total SSI Disabled (18 - 64) <sup>1</sup>	Section 1619 participants	
			Number	Percent
	Total	3,566,656	77,307	2.17
1	South Dakota	7,387	449	6.08
2	Iowa	27,886	1,635	5.86
3	Minnesota	38,436	2,184	5.68
4	Wisconsin	58,057	3,000	5.17
5	North Dakota	5,422	260	4.80
6	Northern Mariana Islands	213	10	4.69
7	Nebraska	13,190	614	4.66
8	Utah	13,149	583	4.43
9	New Hampshire	7,724	338	4.38
10	Wyoming	4,024	174	4.32
11	Kansas	23,713	1,015	4.28
12	Idaho	10,636	446	4.19
13	Washington	61,703	2,207	3.58
14	Vermont	8,494	302	3.56
15	Montana	9,167	321	3.50
16	Colorado	35,554	1,230	3.46
17	Oregon	31,321	1,065	3.40
18	Indiana	56,828	1,929	3.39
19	Delaware	6,639	222	3.34
20	Connecticut	29,598	936	3.16
21	Massachusetts	98,991	3,071	3.10
22	Michigan	131,924	3,984	3.02
23	Alaska	4,949	147	2.97
24	Maine	18,922	503	2.66
25	Nevada	12,161	313	2.57
26	Ohio	161,384	4,109	2.55
27	Maryland	47,116	1,070	2.27
28	Missouri	69,973	1,537	2.20
29	Rhode Island	14,640	320	2.19
30	New Mexico	24,541	525	2.14
31	Virginia	69,304	1,474	2.13
32	New Jersey	75,127	1,567	2.09
33	Illinois	157,083	3,260	2.08
34	Pennsylvania	160,502	3,262	2.03
35	Arizona	43,646	863	1.98
36	Florida	161,311	3,012	1.87
37	Texas	192,170	3,567	1.86
38	Oklahoma	40,808	745	1.83
39	Arkansas	45,710	831	1.82
40	North Carolina	96,476	1,694	1.76
41	New York	309,375	5,128	1.66
42	Georgia	106,856	1,740	1.63
43	Tennessee	100,730	1,603	1.59
44	California	493,130	7,843	1.59
45	Louisiana	94,745	1,505	1.59
46	South Carolina	58,435	911	1.56
47	District of Columbia	11,712	181	1.55
48	Hawaii	9,066	133	1.47
49	Mississippi	69,402	916	1.32
50	Alabama	86,367	995	1.15
51	Kentucky	104,496	1,179	1.13
52	West Virginia	46,463	399	0.86

<sup>1</sup> Includes blind recipients and 1619(b)s.



Table 8. Number of SSI disabled recipients in December 1996, by program status and earnings in March 1997<sup>1</sup>

Program status in December 1996	Total	Program status in March 1997								
		Receiving payments			Not receiving payments					
		Section 1619(a)	Have earnings	No earnings	Ineligible because of earned income				Other excess income	Other non-pay
					Section 1619(b)	No longer eligible				
						Does not need/use Medicaid	Can pay for equivalent coverage	Both reasons		
Total	5,101,750	30,280	224,130	4,671,930	46,040	850	70	410	42,560	85,480
Receiving payments										
Section 1619(a)	30,870	20,630	3,620	3,650	1,710	80	0	10	300	870
Have earnings	223,860	2,780	202,250	12,060	2,340	70	0	0	1,910	2,450
No earnings	4,795,460	4,330	15,430	4,651,440	5,620	120	20	40	38,630	79,830
Not receiving payments										
Section 1619(b)	51,560	2,540	2,830	4,780	36,370	580	50	360	1,720	2,330

<sup>1</sup> Based on 10-percent sample files.

Table 9. Number of 1619(a) and 1619(b) participants for selected months, 1982-1997

At end of selected month	1619(a) participants		1619(b) participants <sup>1</sup>	
	Number	Percentage change over prior period	Number	Percentage change over prior period
December <sup>2</sup>				
1982	287	---	5,515	---
1983	392	---	5,165	---
1987	14,559	---	15,632	---
1988	19,920	36.8	15,625	0.0
1989	25,655	28.8	18,254	16.8
1990	13,994	-45.5	23,517	28.8
1991	15,531	11.0	27,264	15.9
1992	17,603	13.3	31,649	16.1
1993	20,028	13.8	35,299	11.5
1994	24,315	21.4	40,683	15.3
1995	28,060	15.4	47,002	15.5
1996	31,085	10.8	51,905	10.4
1995				
March	24,286	-0.1	40,333	-0.9
June	25,899	6.6	43,188	7.1
September	27,330	5.5	45,678	5.8
December	28,060	2.7	47,002	2.9
1996				
March	27,018	-3.7	45,594	-3.0
June	28,707	6.3	48,590	6.6
September	29,422	2.5	51,484	6.0
December	31,085	5.7	51,905	0.8
1997				
March	48,194	55.0	48,194	-7.1

<sup>1</sup> Includes blind participants. For March 1997, of the 48,194 participants, 970 were blind.

<sup>2</sup> Data not available for December 1984, 1985, 1986.

NOTE: In January 1990, the SGA level was raised from \$300 to \$500 and section 1619(a) participants with earnings below \$500 became eligible for regular SSI benefits rather than the special cash payments under section 1619(a).

Table 10. Number of section 1619(a) participants and average earnings, by State, for selected months, 1996-1997

State	March 1996		December 1996		March 1997	
	Number	Average Earnings	Number	Average Earnings	Number	Average Earnings
Total	27,018	\$755	31,085	\$764	31,146	\$764
Alabama	397	\$753	416	\$766	470	\$761
Alaska	47	729	53	725	48	740
Arizona	313	739	314	735	353	752
Arkansas	298	746	295	779	319	771
California	3,651	823	4,019	821	4,093	821
Colorado	412	756	434	750	419	758
Connecticut	228	716	259	707	272	730
Delaware	62	720	89	751	73	738
District of Columbia	58	727	61	748	69	755
Florida	1,055	732	1,315	743	1,290	744
Georgia	648	732	722	757	760	739
Hawaii	63	756	72	745	68	737
Idaho	124	741	168	749	171	754
Illinois	1,285	740	1,491	746	1,453	750
Indiana	671	744	751	757	718	762
Iowa	445	736	542	731	496	729
Kansas	303	755	382	766	331	760
Kentucky	440	772	511	773	511	757
Louisiana	522	734	604	760	662	751
Maine	138	761	152	754	151	764
Maryland	429	754	434	762	443	764
Massachusetts	905	766	1,058	762	1,058	759
Michigan	1,288	751	1,550	758	1,559	760
Minnesota	531	742	637	747	608	747
Mississippi	343	784	408	766	433	765
Missouri	502	723	575	740	580	743
Montana	77	726	103	734	95	754
Nebraska	182	718	250	732	236	737
Nevada	100	776	104	764	124	748
New Hampshire	65	739	88	771	85	788
New Jersey	500	747	588	766	583	765
New Mexico	166	696	209	745	226	728
New York	1,998	755	2,303	772	2,208	774
North Carolina	584	747	665	754	660	751
North Dakota	54	719	86	736	69	730
Ohio	1,488	731	1,857	747	1,828	752
Oklahoma	226	704	273	724	279	718
Oregon	310	752	331	758	320	756
Pennsylvania	1,158	736	1,423	762	1,408	756
Rhode Island	82	782	107	793	100	814
South Carolina	326	735	336	747	363	737
South Dakota	126	716	136	698	125	721
Tennessee	596	774	615	762	637	773
Texas	1,304	729	1,356	764	1,420	758
Utah	168	711	213	707	206	737
Vermont	91	799	101	754	110	774
Virginia	457	753	588	741	581	737
Washington	798	772	894	789	904	792
West Virginia	120	749	160	753	139	771
Wisconsin	827	756	927	749	975	757
Wyoming	50	668	53	717	50	691
Northern Mariana Islands	7	620	7	688	7	647

Table 11. Number of section 1619(b) participants and average earnings, by State, for selected months, 1996-1997

State	March 1996		December 1996		March 1997	
	Number	Average Earnings	Number	Average Earnings	Number	Average Earnings
Total	45,594	\$838	51,905	\$881	48,194	\$862
Alabama	523	\$1,020	640	1,062	561	1,021
Alaska <sup>1</sup>	80	697	106	1,011	101	940
Arizona	475	835	558	885	533	822
Arkansas	452	793	555	864	538	823
California	3,943	1,017	4,161	1,042	4,058	1,046
Colorado	753	774	877	822	847	806
Connecticut <sup>1</sup>	622	784	674	758	685	785
Delaware	156	780	148	854	156	900
District of Columbia	118	1,057	117	1,079	119	1,046
Florida	1,682	890	2,039	930	1,809	929
Georgia	980	903	1,141	896	1,032	863
Hawaii <sup>1</sup>	87	890	76	946	69	950
Idaho <sup>1</sup>	252	819	280	1,044	279	879
Illinois <sup>1</sup>	1,921	959	2,137	906	1,892	894
Indiana <sup>1</sup>	1,225	786	1,470	816	1,248	793
Iowa	1,161	648	1,343	675	1,172	656
Kansas <sup>1</sup>	652	657	770	745	710	740
Kentucky	639	854	739	901	702	856
Louisiana	781	762	962	888	884	865
Maine	373	716	386	762	360	766
Maryland	609	860	742	905	662	880
Massachusetts	2,010	913	2,143	975	2,079	965
Michigan	2,436	861	2,593	898	2,503	897
Minnesota <sup>1</sup>	1,488	691	1,704	738	1,610	763
Mississippi	486	953	625	1,023	513	1,024
Missouri <sup>1</sup>	969	711	1,082	715	1,011	696
Montana	242	688	269	672	235	683
Nebraska <sup>1</sup>	322	712	418	736	391	707
Nevada <sup>1</sup>	164	863	226	956	196	956
New Hampshire <sup>1</sup>	221	659	249	701	261	691
New Jersey	1,058	897	1,147	977	1,019	935
New Mexico	283	794	316	857	310	858
New York	2,833	983	3,341	995	3,051	971
North Carolina	972	886	1,210	938	1,094	923
North Dakota <sup>1</sup>	203	651	215	667	197	755
Ohio <sup>1</sup>	2,195	819	2,640	859	2,370	837
Oklahoma <sup>1</sup>	427	633	518	725	487	655
Oregon <sup>1</sup>	696	671	784	765	762	729
Pennsylvania	1,911	771	2,111	857	1,938	803
Rhode Island	202	796	202	851	227	871
South Carolina	511	765	613	872	572	823
South Dakota	319	645	356	680	337	668
Tennessee	895	899	1,127	959	1,007	964
Texas	2,112	773	2,356	826	2,254	771
Utah <sup>1</sup>	361	738	405	820	390	754
Vermont	194	832	205	813	200	764
Virginia <sup>1</sup>	849	724	1,042	846	931	833
Washington	1,271	881	1,403	918	1,359	889
West Virginia	244	837	277	961	267	894
Wisconsin	2,128	731	2,268	773	2,079	743
Wyoming	105	621	133	627	124	582
Northern Mariana Islands	3	770	6	1,203	3	872

<sup>1</sup> The Social Security Administration identifies persons as potential participants, final Medicaid determinations are made by the State.

Table 12. Number and average earnings of section 1619(a) and 1619(b) participants, by selected characteristics of participants, March 1997

Selected Characteristics	1619(a) Participants		1619(b) Participants	
	Number	Average Earnings	Number	Average Earnings
Total	31,146	\$311	48,194	\$862
Age				
Under 18	414	\$701	346	<sup>1</sup>
18-21	4,459	742	2,201	\$1,135
22-29	10,617	763	13,435	941
30-39	8,679	777	16,287	806
40-49	4,456	775	9,092	817
50-59	1,988	761	4,291	811
60-64	382	748	1,420	736
65 or older	151	709	1,122	648
Race				
White	18,776	\$762	31,559	\$815
Black	7,082	760	8,600	952
Other	2,449	786	3,131	1,068
Unknown	2,839	770	4,904	869
Sex				
Male	18,305	\$773	27,126	\$890
Female	12,841	752	21,068	825
Earned Income <sup>2</sup>				
Wages	30,791	\$764	47,228	\$863
Self-employment	526	750	1,339	894
Earning Levels				
Less than \$400	---	---	11,087	\$270
\$400 - \$499	---	---	5,984	437
\$500 - \$599	5,793	\$548	4,640	527
\$600 - \$699	7,186	632	3,046	630
\$700 - \$899	10,401	783	4,755	784
\$900 - \$1,199	6,954	984	6,618	1,044
\$1,200 and over	811	1,357	12,064	1,734
Unearned Income <sup>2</sup>				
None	26,198	\$775	14,967	\$1,331
Social security	2,008	641	30,740	605
Other pensions	79	697	471	721
Assistance based on need	14	784	14	1,097
Interest, dividends, etc	2,124	754	3,672	751
Other	1,014	714	2,147	974
Work Incentives <sup>2</sup>				
PASS <sup>3</sup>	503	\$917	119	\$1,356
IRWE	1,365	778	1,312	789
BWE	24	1,331	609	1,111

<sup>1</sup> Data not available.

<sup>2</sup> Persons with more than one type are shown under each type.

<sup>3</sup> Data not available on PASS plans which exclude only resources.

Table 13. Percent of SSI disabled recipients under age 65, and 1619(a) and 1619(b) participants, by diagnosis, March 1997<sup>1</sup>

Diagnosis	Disabled recipients	1619(a) participants	1619(b) participants
Total number <sup>2</sup>	4,375,650	23,306	32,467
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Infectious and parasitic diseases	1.7	1.1	1.6
Neoplasms	1.5	1.3	1.7
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic	4.3	2.3	2.9
Mental Disorders:			
Schizophrenia	8.9	9.4	11.6
Other psychiatric	21.5	19.4	20.2
Mental retardation	28.4	46.1	38.0
Diseases of the:			
Nervous system and sense organs <sup>3</sup>	10.1	12.4	13.2
Circulatory system	4.9	1.6	2.3
Respiratory system	2.7	1.0	1.0
Digestive system	0.7	0.4	0.6
Genito-urinary system	0.9	1.1	1.7
Musculoskeletal system and connective tissues	7.3	3.0	4.6
Congenital anomalies	1.7	0.9	0.8
Injury and poisoning	2.7	2.2	3.3
Other	2.7	1.2	1.2

<sup>1</sup> Information on diagnosis of SSI disabled recipients under age 65 is from the December 1996 SSI 10-percent disability file. Information on diagnosis for section 1619 recipients is available from SSI source files.

<sup>2</sup> Includes only recipients whose diagnosis information is specifically identified on the source files.

<sup>3</sup> Most of the section 1619(b) participants who are classified as blind individuals are included in this category. A few section 1619(b) blind participants have a primary impairment other than diseases of the eye and are coded in other categories in this table. Also, there are a few participants classified as having diseases of the eye who are not blind, whose impairment does not meet the definition of blindness, and are classified as disabled.

Table 14. Number of SSI disabled recipients benefiting from specified work incentive provisions, by State, March 1997

State	Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) <sup>1</sup>	Impairment related work expenses (IRWE)	Blind work expenses (BWE)
Total	3,787	9,776	4,231
Alabama	62	194	52
Alaska	4	2	3
Arizona	38	87	39
Arkansas	67	80	58
California	619	697	518
Colorado	132	72	59
Connecticut	34	137	31
Delaware	3	42	8
District of Columbia	6	4	6
Florida	132	552	146
Georgia	114	398	98
Hawaii	9	28	19
Idaho	17	50	5
Illinois	68	392	101
Indiana	45	224	94
Iowa	57	69	107
Kansas	45	310	53
Kentucky	100	115	70
Louisiana	26	101	75
Maine	47	78	29
Maryland	109	334	43
Massachusetts	174	254	298
Michigan	142	344	143
Minnesota	99	211	94
Mississippi	35	57	102
Missouri	54	249	75
Montana	26	8	9
Nebraska	17	93	17
Nevada	16	24	14
New Hampshire	13	34	3
New Jersey	70	163	70
New Mexico	17	139	26
New York	244	647	309
North Carolina	75	348	177
North Dakota	12	9	4
Ohio	175	231	172
Oklahoma	21	105	32
Oregon	100	58	58
Pennsylvania	96	514	223
Rhode Island	14	20	15
South Carolina	41	160	58
South Dakota	22	70	10
Tennessee	78	303	110
Texas	100	377	270
Utah	11	76	19
Vermont	28	26	4
Virginia	98	647	99
Washington	66	117	70
West Virginia	24	30	24
Wisconsin	169	487	106
Wyoming	16	9	6
Northern Mariana Islands	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Data not available on PASS plans which exclude only resources.

Table 15. Number of SSI disabled recipients benefiting from specified work incentive provisions, by selected characteristics of the worker, March 1997

Selected characteristics	Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) <sup>1</sup>	Impairment related work expenses (IRWE)	Blind work expenses (BWE)
Total	3,787	9,776	4,231
Age			
Under 18	4	23	9
18-21	165	515	205
22-29	969	3,359	1,148
30-39	1,258	3,255	1,410
40-49	978	1,558	886
50-59	331	723	377
60-64	59	202	107
65 or older	23	141	89
Race			
White	2,723	7,256	2,675
Black	482	1,398	818
Other	156	389	289
Unknown	426	733	449
Sex			
Male	1,961	5,360	2,355
Female	1,826	4,416	1,876
Earned Income <sup>2</sup>			
Wages	1,402	9,707	4,081
Self-employment	136	96	176
Earning Levels			
No earnings	2,266	0	2
\$65 and Under	96	1,048	283
\$66 - \$99	27	676	126
\$100 - \$199	137	2,031	467
\$200 - \$299	168	1,447	339
\$300 - \$399	194	1,261	294
\$400 - \$499	221	1,010	281
\$500 - \$599	155	627	237
\$600 - \$699	90	429	253
\$700 - \$799	78	306	221
\$800 - \$999	125	395	444
\$1,000 and Over	230	546	1,284
Unearned Income <sup>2</sup>			
None	776	4,805	2,304
Social security	2,849	4,254	1,510
Other pensions	63	91	22
Assistance based on need	3,787	9,776	4,231
Interest, dividends, etc.	3,460	8,857	3,772
Other	3,621	9,493	4,027

<sup>1</sup> Data not available on PASS plans which exclude only resources.

<sup>2</sup> Persons with more than one type are shown under each type.



Table 16. Number of SSI disabled recipients benefiting from specified work incentive provisions, by diagnosis, March 1997

Diagnosis	Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) <sup>1</sup>	Impairment related work expenses (IRWE)	Blind work expenses (BWE)
Total	3,787	9,776	4,231
Number with diagnosis	2,347	6,213	2,368
Infectious and parasitic diseases	21	28	3
Neoplasms	20	32	5
Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic	81	45	28
Mental Disorders:			
Schizophrenia	264	301	1
Other psychiatric	635	457	9
Mental retardation	323	4,150	47
Diseases of the:			
Nervous system and sense organs <sup>2</sup>	407	755	2,188
Circulatory system	56	63	18
Respiratory system	15	22	0
Digestive system	27	8	1
Genito-urinary system	29	19	1
Musculoskeletal system and connective tissues	143	61	0
Congenital anomalies	27	103	56
Injury and poisoning	271	152	6
Other	28	17	5

<sup>1</sup> Data not available on PASS plans which exclude only resources.

<sup>2</sup> Most of the disabled workers who are classified as blind individuals are included in this category. A few blind participants have a primary impairment other than diseases of the eye and are coded in other categories in this table. Also, there are a few participants classified as having diseases of the eye who are not blind, whose impairment does not meet the definition of blindness.

Table 17. Percent distribution of persons with income excluded under specified work incentive provisions, by amount excluded, March 1997

Amount excluded	Plans for achieving self-support (PASS) <sup>1</sup>	Impairment related work expenses (IRWE)	Blind work expenses (BWE)
Total number	3,787	9,776	4,231
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0
Under \$25	1.6	21.9	16.5
\$25 - \$49	1.8	29.8	9.5
\$50 - \$99	4.6	28.4	14.4
\$100 - \$199	13.1	13.0	19.0
\$200 - \$299	14.8	4.1	13.3
\$300 - \$499	36.4	2.1	15.1
\$500 - \$999	25.5	0.6	10.2
\$1,000 and Over	2.1	0.2	2.0

<sup>1</sup> Data not available on PASS plans which exclude only resources.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Blind Work Expense Exclusion (BWE):**

(Public Law 92-603, effective January 1974)--Permits the exclusion of any earned income of a blind person which is used to meet any expenses reasonably attributable to earning the income.

### **Earned Income Exclusion:**

(Public Law 92-603, effective January 1974)--The first \$65 of a recipient's monthly earnings and one-half of the earnings in excess of \$65 are excluded in computing the SSI benefit payable.

### **Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE):**

(Public Law 96-265, effective December 1980)--Provides for the exclusion from earnings of the costs of items and services which are needed in order to work and are paid for by the individual. These IRWE's are excluded from earnings used in the determination of SGA and earned income used to compute ongoing SSI monthly payments. Beginning December 1990, the IRWE exclusions are also applied in the determination of income for purposes of initial SSI eligibility.

### **Plan for Achieving Self-support (PASS):**

(Public Law 92-603, effective January 1974)--Permits a disabled or blind SSI recipient who has an approved PASS to set aside earned or unearned income and resources for a work goal. The income or resources set aside are used to pay for goods or services needed to reach the goal, such as education, vocational training, starting a business, or purchasing work related equipment. Income and resources set aside under a PASS are excluded from SSI income and resources tests but do not influence the determination of ability to engage in SGA.

### **Continuation of Payments:**

(Public Law 96-265, effective December 1980)--Provides for the continuation of SSI (also SSDI) payments to disabled individuals after their disability ceased, due to medical recovery, if they are participating in approved vocational rehabilitation plans and SSA determines that completion of the program will increase the chances of permanent removal from the disability rolls. The provision assists individuals whose medical improvement occurs before completion of vocational training. This provision was extended to SSI recipients whose eligibility was based on blindness by Public Law 100-203, effective April 1988.

### **Treatment of Sheltered Workshop Earnings:**

(Public Law 96-265, effective September 1980)--Provides that remuneration for services performed in sheltered workshops or activities centers would be treated as earned income. This change made it possible to apply the earned income exclusion to earnings that previously were subject to the general income exclusion i.e., the first \$20 and a dollar-for-dollar offset thereafter.

**Section 1619(a):**

(Public Law 96-265, effective January 1981; made permanent by Public Law 99-643, effective July 1987)--Provides special SSI cash benefits to disabled individuals who lose eligibility for SSI payments under the regular rules because they have earnings at the level that is ordinarily considered to represent substantial gainful activity.

**Section 1619(b):**

(Public Law 96-265, effective January 1981; made permanent by Public Law 99-643, effective July 1987)--Provides special SSI recipient status for Medicaid purposes to working disabled or blind individuals when their earnings make them ineligible for cash payments.

**Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA):**

(Public Law 92-603, effective January 1974)--Is the performance of significant physical and/or mental activities in work for pay or profit, or in work of a type generally performed for pay or profit. Because earnings provide an objective and feasible measure of work, an employee's earnings and a self-employed individual's earnings and/or activity are used as the measure of SGA. The current SGA level is \$500.

An individual may benefit from more than one of the work incentive provisions. For example, he or she may receive special cash payments under Section 1619 and have income excluded under a PASS. Other combinations are also possible, but it is not possible to have both IRWE and BWE.